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HUNTING THE NAMES OF EXILED RELATIVES ON AN ATHENS BULLETIN BOARD

The transfer of Anatolian Greeks to Greece and Grecian Turks to Turkey was the greatest wholesale uprooting of homes in history (see Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Loneliest Places in the World

TO TRES MARIAS, three desert islands, went a band of captured Yaqui Indians recently, by command of the Mexican government against whose authority they had revolted.

To Reunion Island went Abd el Krim, defeated Moroccan insurgent, by command of the French government.

To Kem and Solovetski islands in the White Sea a Soviet plane flew not long ago to establish an exile station.

To Devil's Island, French Guiana, sailed "La Mariniere," the last French convict ship, with 340 prisoners.

These four incidents show that the policy of keeping convict colonies in the world's loneliest places has not entirely been given up.

Famous Penal Colonies

Devil's Island, Tres Marias, Solovetski Island and Reunion Island are in very mixed company historically. Virginia, St. Helena, Funchal, Monte Cristo, Siberia, the Seychelles, Australia, New Caledonia, Andaman Islands, Tasmania, and Sakhalin have all been penal colonies for more or less distinguished prisoners.

St. Helena, Funchal, the Seychelles and Reunion are royal prison islands. The others, in their time, served for common criminals or unlucky politicians. When Elba failed to hold Napoleon he was placed on St. Helena, well toward the middle of the South Atlantic, out of harm and out of the shipping lanes. That was in 1815. He died in 1821.

Funchal, in the Azores, and the Seychelles, on the west coast of Africa north of Madagascar, are more recent prison stations. In Africa the British often find it useful to withdraw certain native rulers from their subjects. When Prempeh, king of the Ashanti on the Gold Coast, spilled too much blood, they sent him to the soothing climate of the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. Prempeh, after 20 years, was permited to return to his people. While Prempeh was still in the Seychelles the British government sent Mwanga, deposed ruler of Uganda, to join him and then Kaborega of Unyoro, Sayyid Khalid of Zanzibar and Saad Zaghul of Egypt. The Seychelles exile did not work nearly so well in the case of Zaghul, who later became the leader of a popular party in Egypt. To Funchal was sent the deposed Emperor of Austria-Hungary soon after the end of the World War. He died in exile. His wife and children are now in Spain.

Dumas' Prison Chateau d'If Now Tourist Goal

Chateau d'If, the castle in which the hero of Dumas' novel, "The Count of Monte Cristo," was confined for 14 years, now receives tourists from Marseilles. Curiously, Monte Cristo, where Dantés went after his escape, was also a penal colony island for many years. Monte Cristo is owned by Italy. It lies off the coast from Leghorn and about 25 miles north of Elba.

Tsarist Russia, for a time, sent 18,000 prisoners to Siberia annually. Much of the famous Trans-Siberian railway was built with prison labor. The chief horror of Siberian exile was the knout. By it, or by terror of it, guards kept prisoners docile. The handle of the knout is a heavy wood stick, 18 inches long. Fastened to it is a thong of rawhide. About 8 feet from the handle the thong

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THE SOURCE OF LIFE OF THE OASES

Many oases of northern Africa and the Sahara owe their existence to large springs of hot or cold water that bubble up close to each other, forming a pool or reservoir from which drains the stream that irrigates the oasis. Dates from the growing trees are harvested in November and December (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Where America Spends Millions for Nuts at Christmas Time

WHERE do you do your Christmas shopping?

In your community stores, of course! Actually you do a lot of shopping beyond the borders of the United States. Christmas figs come from Smyrna, dates from Jidda, Arabia, and nuts from unthought-of places. But more and more of the enormous sum of $50,000,000 spent for nuts annually in the United States goes into the hands of American citizens.

Last year America bought a half million tons of nuts or nut products, including chestnuts, walnuts, coconuts, and copra, palm nut oil and pecans, Brazil nuts, almonds, filberts and peanuts. The peanut, which is classified as a nut by the Government, accounted for 36,000 tons. For much of these supplies the United States is as dependent on foreign countries as she is dependent on Singapore for rubber.

The Nut Tree Was Not Taken Seriously

The nut tree has not been taken seriously by Americans until recent years. The Indian and the pioneer respected its gifts, but for many years nut trees existed in America only to provide every fall a happy outlet for the excess energy of small boys.

America would be importing many more tons of nuts but for the fact that Americans have gone in for nut crops within the last twenty years. Pecan orchards have been planted in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and other southern states; walnut and almond orchards have been planted in California. The peanut, of course, is a New World native by birth, and a standby in Virginia and the South. Nevertheless America still must look abroad for nuts, especially those produced in the Tropics.

Where does America shop for nut meats? She goes to Tobago, Trinidad, Jamaica, the Philippines and South Seas for coconuts; she goes to Brazil for Brazil nuts and babassu nuts; to Lagos, Liberia, and Sierre Leone for palm nuts; to Italy and Spain for almonds, filberts and pignolia nuts; to Syria and Palestine for pistache nuts; and to France for English walnuts and chestnuts. Walnuts also come from China, Italy, Spain, and Chile in some quantities.

On the Trail of the Elusive Chinese English Walnut

An American investigator went to the Orient to study the Chinese walnut industry. His experience throws light on the odd sources of our nut meats. Shanghai, he knew, was the main shipping point for millions of walnut meats coming to the United States. Arriving there he called on the exporters and inquired how to find the Chinese walnut orchards. No one knew. They came from the interior. That was enough for the exporters. But the American found a Chinese assistant who told him that the walnuts came from Taiyuanfu, capital of Shansi province.

"Strange," the American investigator said to himself when he reached Taiyuanfu, "there are no walnut trees in sight." But he was soon put right by a citizen who told him that the walnut trees were actually 100 miles farther on, at Fenchow. He obtained one of the 18 automobiles then in Shansi province and started off for Fenchow. The American reached his destination only to be

is split in three parts. These streamers are three feet long. The ends are tied into hard knots, although lead or iron hooks sometimes were used.

Omit the Last Knout Stroke

Preparatory to administering the knout, the victim was tied face downward on a rough table. Close to the knout-wielder stood a clerk with a book in which he checked the number of strokes as the knout-wielder swung them and called them. When the knout sentence called for 100 strokes the last one was usually omitted as a "token of imperial magnanimity."

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EXTRACTING BRAZIL NUTS FROM THE SPHERICAL PODS

The pod sometimes weighs more than two pounds and contains from 12 to 22 nuts. After these are extracted with a machete (a kind of knife), they are washed and sorted for shipment. The United States buys the bulk of Brazil's crop. The Brazil nut tree is a giant of the tropical Amazon forest (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Mysteries of the Caspian Sea

ERUPTION of a remarkable volcano in the Caspian Sea fastens attention to that largest of all inland seas.

Residents of Baku, the Caspian's oil city, watched flames leap 300 feet into the air above the volcanic cone on an island, 40 miles off the coast. Accompanying earthquake shocks felt throughout the Apsheron Peninsula, on which Baku lies, frightened the populace.

With an area equal to that of the State of California, or more than all the Great Lakes combined, the Caspian Sea to-day occupies the deepest part of a great depression situated to the west and south of the Ural Mountains. The northern or fresh water half is shallow, nowhere reaching a depth of more than 118 feet. The southern half, however, is cut by two deep depressions in which soundings have reached 3,600 feet. Both the north and the east coasts are flat marshes and hard to approach. The Caucasus Mountains on the west and the Elburz range on the southern, or Persian, shore are close to the sea and leave only a narrow coastal strip. On this strip are most of the important cities of the region.

Condenser Ships of the Caspian

Taken as a whole the Caspian is not an attractive body of water. Its shores are as barren as the granite boulders of its bordering mountains. Since there is no fresh water above or below the surface of the ground near the southern coasts, the inhabitants must bring drinking water from long distances or condense sea water. One of the distinguishing features of towns along this part of the Caspian Sea is the floating condenser plant, usually some worn-out steamer or sailing vessel. Sometimes the water is piped ashore, sometimes it is carried in tank barges and then peddled around the streets, as is milk in other cities.

Baku, capital of the new Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, is the largest city on the sea and the center of a prosperous, busy oil region. Its surroundings are like those of the nitrate towns along the coast of Chile, only the settlements are more numerous and better built. Before the war Baku was one of the most important cities in the Russian Empire, although its population was composed principally of Persians and Armenians. The damage it suffered during the conflict has been repaired and it is rapidly regaining its place among the great petroleum centers of the world. Baku also is the home port for most of the great merchant fleet on the sea, and, since the construction of the Transcaucasian railroad, has been the chief trans-shipment point on the routes to northern Persia and Turkestan.

Projects to connect the Caspian with the Black Sea, or its salt sister, Sea of Azov, have been presented almost as often as those for tunnels or bridges in the English Channel. Peter the Great had a plan to cut a canal between the Volga and the Don Rivers, where only a slight rise in the land prevents the Volga from turning west, instead of southeast, as now. In 1900 Russian engineers discussed a more direct canal, from Astrakhan, the great city at the mouth

informed that the walnut trees, as a matter of fact, were 25 miles farther on. The nuts were similar to the English walnut of California. For age, the walnut tree is a Methuselah of the plant world. Chinese trees over 200 years old still bear nuts. How did they get into the Shansi hills and into the valleys northeast of Peking? Did the Chinese walnut trees come from Persia like the English walnut trees, or are they native? That remains a plant mystery.

Six Tons Pressure to Crack This Nut

In another part of the world tongues are wagging over a new and probably important development in the nut trade. Beside the northern tributaries of the sprawling Amazon grows a palm tree which produces the babassu nut. Probably the babassu gave inspiration for the phrase "a hard nut to crack." Its spherical shell, about the size of a baseball, has been known to withstand six tons pressure! The prize for the strong man who can crack a babassu is a group of nut meats the size and shape of shelled Brazil nuts. Each nut meat will burn readily and can be used as a wickless candle. Babassu meat is 66 per cent oil. It is said to be the only nut oil that can be substituted for coconut oil. American inventors have been working busily on the problem of a strong, portable nut cracker, capable of dealing with this tough nut in its tropical home. If they win, the babassu will probably join the Brazil nut as one of the most important exports of Brazil.

To Americans must come much credit for putting nut growing on a business basis. The walnut orchard, the pecan orchard and the almond orchard are largely American institutions. Until this American idea came in nut trees were grown somewhat according to the Biblical plan when peace and plenty were achieved by every man dwelling "under his vine and under his fig tree from Dan to Beersheba." In Italy, in Spain, in China, in Anatolia, the peasant farmer felt sure of a livelihood if he dwelt under his own nut tree. Probably more than 80 per cent of the cultivated nut crop of the world comes from the peasants who own from one to five trees each. Orchards are now becoming more common in Sorrento, Italy; Valencia and Alicante, Spain; Grenoble and Bordeaux, France; under the pressure of higher prices. The almond has ceased to be a specialty crop in Spain. It takes highest rank among her exports to America.

India Buys All of Italy's Shelled Almonds

Almonds are grown all around the Mediterranean basin, but the United States gets her chief supplies from Italy and Spain. Anatolia, Syria, Greece and North Africa ship to northern Europe. The Orient also looks to the Mediterranean for almonds. Practically the entire Italian supply of shelled almonds goes to India, where it is an essential to some of the famous Indian dishes.

The coconut's rôle as an edible nut is small compared to its part in the modern industrial scheme as maker of oleomargarine, soap and salad oil and candles. It also is widely used in shaving cream manufacture to impart a lather-producing quality.

An all-important nut which is not edible is the palm nut. The African Gold Coast ships thousands of tons of them annually to the United States. Here palm nut oil finds uses in soap, candles, coloring for butter substitutes, heat resistant paints, shoe polish and for lubrication of cutting tools.

The tin plate industry is one of the heaviest buyers of palm nuts. Palm oil is essential to the making of that necessity of modern civilization, the tin can. Thin sheet iron, after being passed into its bath of molten tin, must be brought through palm oil, floating on the hot metal, when it emerges with its shiny tin coat.

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What Is a Sheik of North Africa?

HUNDREDS of true North African sheiks gowned in multicolored burnouses (a burnouse is a one-piece wool robe and hood) and white silk vestments and mounted on splendid horses gathered at Marakesh in southern Morocco recently to witness a royal wedding. The daughter of the Pasha of Marakesh married the son and heir of the Sultan of Morocco.

More than 8,000 dwellers on the edge of the Sahara Desert assembled for the festivities.

North Africa's idea of a sheik and the living conditions of desert people are described by A. M. Hassanein Bey, former first secretary of the Egyptian Legation at Washington, in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

A Sheik Is an Old Man

"After leaving Siwa I put aside my khaki clothes and assumed desert garments, traveling as a Bedouin sheik," he writes. "I find that in America *sheik* means something very terrible and fascinating; but 90 per cent of the sheiks in the desert are as little likely to run away with a beautiful woman as the same per cent of the sedate bankers of America! The word 'sheik' in Arabic means 'an old man,' and it has come in time to mean the oldest man of the tribe—that is, its chief, or the head of the religion, or the head of a caravan.

"When they dislike a traveler the Bedouins have a very clever way of dealing with him without assuming the blame for 'mishaps.' They treat the visitor royally and then wait for him outside the village or oasis and attack his caravan; if they can destroy it, they do so. Then there are many excuses. If they are questioned they say, 'We showed him every hospitality while he was in our midst; outside there are many robbers. One cannot know who committed this crime.'

A Suitor Sings to His Sweetheart

"The Bedouins lead very chivalrous and romantic lives. When a young man wishes to marry he goes to his sweetheart's camp and sings to her, in many cases, his own verses. If the girl likes him, she sings to him in verse. Then, if the girl's family approves, there is a marriage.

"The Bedouins marry more than one wife if they can afford it, and in many cases the wives live on good terms with each other. But the eldest, or first, wife remains the mistress of the house.

"The chief occupation of the Siwa inhabitants is the cultivation of dates. Olive trees are also grown and olive oil extracted.

"The dates of Siwa are famous all over the world. A visit to the date market reveals a curious communistic custom that prevails here. Everybody, rich and poor, brings all his dates, good and bad, and puts them in heaps, and no one dares touch one date from another man's heap, for it would bring bad luck. On the other hand, they allow any stranger or any poor man to come in and eat as much as he likes from the best quality provided he does not take any away with him. Therefore, nobody starves at Siwa.

of the Volga, to Taganrog, on the Sea of Azov. But so far these projects have gone no farther than the round-table.

An End of the Ancient Earth

In the earliest periods of recorded time the Caspian Sea was thought to be part of the great "stream of ocean" surrounding the habitable earth. Herodotus, the Greek Baedeker, mentions a visit to it in B. C. 458, when it was an even greater mystery than to-day, for then no one knew its extent.

Some authorities claim that the Caspian had its origin in a great inland sea, an Asiatic Mediterranean, with an outlet to the Arctic Ocean. In support of the Arctic outlet it is pointed out that seals are still hunted in the Caspian and there are other forms of life which show evidence of Arctic ancestry. It is argued that the Caspian owes its present size to climatic changes and evaporation.

That the sea has reached other levels is evident by the number of terraces that can be seen back from the coast. However, to complicate matters, the weak development of the terraces indicates that the sea did not stand at any one level for a long time. Walls and cities have been found in many sections underneath the surface, supposedly an indication that the level of the water was even lower at one period than it is now.

Shifting shore lines are not the only queer things about the Caspian. Although 85 feet below the level of its neighbor, the Black Sea, and with no known or possible outlet, the Caspian is less than half as salty. It is only three-eighths as salty as the ocean. Furthermore, the northern part, which receives large quantities of fresh water from the Volga, Ural, and Terek Rivers, is so slightly salty the water is quite drinkable.

Caspian Has Both Salt and Fresh Water Fishes

The Black Sea, with approximately an equal surface and almost the same climatic conditions, not only retains a constant level but is continually discharging at the Dardanelles. Yet the volume of water poured into the Black Sea is not nearly so great as that which the Caspian receives. The Volga, alone, drains almost half a million square miles.

No other inland body of water is so richly stocked with fish, nor has as wide a range of species. The Caspian presents an intermingling of salt and fresh water forms. Before the World War the annual catch, including the seals of Krasnovodsk Bay, was valued at more than five million dollars.

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Johannesburg: Scene of a "Marathon" Mine Rush

JOHANNESBURG, Transvaal, in the Union of South Africa, is reported to be the starting point of a new kind of mine claim rush. It can be called the "Marathon rush," because the leading mining companies have hired well-known South African athletes to seize claims in newly reported mining fields.

More than 100 amateur athletes took part in the recent diamond rush to the Lictenburg field, one hundred miles west of Johannesburg. Although this Transvaal town is more famous as the "City of Gold," it has frequently been the headquarters of recent rushes to platinum fields and diamond deposits.

Last April $50,000 worth of diamonds were found near "Joburg," as its citizens call it. That caused a stampede of adventurers and now thousands more are passing through the city on the way to the new fields.

City Born in a Gold Rush

Until the latter part of the last century, the whole South African Union was little known to the outside world. It was a pastoral and agricultural region. Such fame as it won was principally due to frequent conflicts between the Boers and the British local or imperial authorities, and to the native tribes. It was seldom visited except by traders and hunters but the discovery of the enormous gold deposits of the Witwatersrand—the Rand—in 1885 brought a rush of English, French, Portuguese, Germans and Americans into the country in search of wealth. Out of that rush, Johannesburg was born. It is often referred to as the world's record-breaking city. It began breaking records 40 years ago when some tin shanties stood on one of the bleakest portions of the Rand. The passing of another year saw additional hundreds of shanties and then the transformation of the farms on which the shanties stood into a full-fledged mining camp.

Pioneers of the eighties and nineties little imagined that by 1925 their settlement would have a population of 288,000. Johannesburg to-day spreads over an area approximately that of St. Louis. They little imagined there would be 800 miles of well-paved streets over which 80 miles of street car tracks are built. Like many of our modern cities the streets run checker-board fashion, and parks are numerous.

A Mining Camp Made in a Resort

The shanties have gradually given way to the march of progress with which Johannesburg is keeping step, and wide thoroughfares, tall, handsome buildings, schools, churches and luxurious clubs give it the appearance of a bustling New England city. Its location in the hills, with mine dumps on all sides, sometimes makes life miserable in the city. Heavy winds blow great clouds of dust from these mine dumps, covering everything. Trees and grass will not grow on the dumps and the only relief from the nuisance is the rain which falls heavily in March and April. Immediately following these rains Johannesburg is at its best—clear, sunny and warm.

Since the founding of Johannesburg, it has been a great melting-pot, for it is an objective of health hunters, pleasure seekers and adventurers in South

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How the Women Fix Their Hair

"Some of the women are unusually comely. They dress in very loose garments and adorn themselves with necklaces of silver bangles. Photographs of some of these Siwa girls suggest that they follow the most modern form of coiffure, but the hair is not bobbed, although it has the same effect. It is plaited when the child is young, and the braiding continues as the hair grows. The locks are oiled from time to time, but are never unplaited or combed out."

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COLLECTING SILKWORM COCOONS ON CASPIAN SEA SHORE

In the Persian province of Enzali on the landlocked Caspian Sea silkworm cocoons are picked from the trees like fruit. Persian silks, such as Persian shawls and Persian rugs, are world-famous. The chief centers of production are Khorasan, Kashan, and Yezd (see Bulletin No. 3).

Africa. It is the most populous city in the Union and considered its commercial capital. Such a large city as Johannesburg, with its high-tension traffic and bustle, usually would not be regarded as an ideal vacation or holiday resort. Yet the citizens have made it so. Tennis is the favorite amusement and tennis courts may be seen everywhere. Many pretty pleasure parks, lakes for yachting and boating, and magnificent motor drives help make it a resort. The hotels, restaurants, and theaters seem more European than African.

All Kinds of Mining Thrive

The Transvaal District, in which Johannesburg is situated, for years has been the greatest gold-producing region in the world. Gold is the chief export of the district, with coal production and export increasing each year. The silver and tin mining industries thrive. Iron ore is found in large quantities, but, on account of the small South African market, the mining of this ore has not been developed.

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A DIAMOND MINE NEAR PRETORIA, TRANSVAAL

Here, in 1905, was found the famous Cullinan diamond, weighing one and one-half pounds. Excavated material is hauled out of the pit by machinery to the washing plant which is marked by smokestacks.